

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As the Spring Term draws to a close, I am able to reflect on the many and varied activities and successes of the past three months.

The inaugural 'Cultural Day' was a significant high point, bringing all members of the school community together in a genuinely cohesive social and cultural experience. I would like to extend my personal gratitude to the Diversity Committee who were the driving force behind this event.



Of all the individual achievements over the term, I would like to take this opportunity to personally congratulate Hope E. (10E) for receiving Blue Peter's highest award, the Gold Badge. This is an exceptionally rare award and one, quite rightly, that should be celebrated together.

There have been innumerable charity events and I would like to thank parents and pupils for their generosity in supporting the many worthy causes. One such cause is the [Carli Lansley Foundation](http://CarliLansleyFoundation.org.uk), which aims to provide a free electrocardiogram (ECG) screening to young people (aged 14-35) to help detect any previously undiagnosed heart conditions. To get added to the Foundation's 'priority list' for a future screening date, please email [info@carlilansleyfoundation.org.uk](mailto:info@carlilansleyfoundation.org.uk)

In terms of school-wide achievements, I am particularly pleased that attendance has steadily increased and currently stands at 2.5% above the national average. For many reasons, this continues to be a challenge nationally and remains a key priority for the Academy.

In terms of the development of the curriculum, further to my letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> March, I can confirm that the Academy will be following a three-year Key Stage 3 (Year 7-9) and a two-year Key Stage 4 (Year 10-11) curriculum model from September 2023. The model is broad, balanced and ambitious and will further enhance progress at both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

Mr. N. Houchen

### ATTENDANCE

Attendance is 93.4 % vs. a national average of 90.9% (+2.5%) and persistent absence is 16.0% vs. a national average of 27.0% (-11.0%).

House	% Attendance
Ashdown	93.5
Bowland	94.1
Elveden	92.9
Kielder	92.8
Richmond	93.1
Sherwood	94.0
Whinfall	93.2
<b>Overall</b>	<b>93.4</b>

### HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME



The current law does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child out of school during term time. The Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 2013 prohibits a Principal granting leave of absence to a pupil, except where an application has been made in advance, and the Principal considers that there are 'exceptional circumstances' relating to the application.

Click here for a [Term Time Holiday Application](#)

Please note that if the absence is not authorised, and the holiday is taken, this may result in a Penalty Notice of £120 (or £60 if paid within 21 days) to each parent for each child taken out of school.

# Pupil Success

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Student Leadership Team (StLT) has been continuing with the recruitment process for the new Prefects. Following over 100 applications, the StLT created a mock duty rota for prospective Prefects to allow them the opportunity to gain further insight into the role and expectations.



The next stage in the process will be to shortlist candidates for the new StLT, who will then be invited to an interview with the current team. In true democratic style, all staff will then vote on the constitution of the team. Once this has been completed, the remaining 40 Prefects will be appointed.

## BASKETBALL SUCCES



Albie L. (7K), Tom B. (7S), Theo C. (7W) and Mateo S. (7S) all play for our U12 NBL team who have won their league and in doing so only losing one game by 1 point to Brentwood Fire. They have all had

an amazing season showing continuous development with the chances to be able to play for the Essex County team within the next few months.

Toby M. (8S), Maximos P. (9B) and Lucas J. (9S) all play for our U14 NBL team who have also won their league without losing a single fixture over the course of the season (November - March). They have not only won the league, but they have won every game by at least 24 points. They have all had an outstanding season and show promise to all play for the Essex County team within the next few months.



## HERD IN THE CITY

The Art Department is so pleased to share that the Academy will be taking part in 'Herd in the City,' this summer. The Academy's beautiful elephant 'Ellie,' will be on exhibition at the Beecroft Art Gallery when the trail begins in July. The Sculpture Art Trail, which will include many school submissions and professional artists sculptures, is free to attend and will be across Southend at various venues. There will be lots of elephants to see! All money raised via the downloadable trail app will go to the Havens Hospice charity. To find out more visit [Herd in the City](#)



A huge thank you to Ellie T. (11R) for her kind Jack Petchey donation which helped the Art Department purchase the elephant and also to the Year 10 creative team. The team has shown tremendous creativity and teamwork. In a short timeframe, they worked out an

Academy appropriate theme for the sculpture design and applied their 2D design onto the 3D sculpture. A lot of hours of painting later... and the sculpture is ready to become 'part of the herd'.

Well done to Aiman Z. (10A), Holly C. (10B), Tilly D.'O.N. (10E), Lexie J. (10B) and Simira T. (10S). The 'Woodland Theme', representing the seven (forest-named) Houses at the Academy is full of detail and symbolism in the context of a school setting being diverse and connected to growth and nurture.



# Pupil Success

## CITIZENSHIP ACTION



Congratulations to Year 10 pupils who have been working really hard to complete their Citizenship Action coursework. As part of the work, pupils select a topic and try and raise the

profile and awareness of an identified issue. There have been some amazing projects and a lot of hard work invested by both staff and pupils to arrange events and collect donations.



One such event was a charity bake sale, held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March. Charities being represented included Ukrainian Refugees; Trustlinks (local mental

health charity); RSPCA; Age UK, Golden Geese (child cancer charity); and a group who are raising funds to buy plants which they intend to plant in the gardens of a local residential home for the elderly.



The pupils raised a total of £305. A fantastic achievement!



Some pupils also chose to raise awareness through presentations undertaken during PDE and to then collect donations.

One particular group collected animal toys, treats and food for a local RSPCA shelter. Pupils were wonderfully generous and the donations were delivered on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

The amazing work of our pupils did not stop there as three groups developed their lobbying skills by writing to the Principal, Mr. N. Houchen and the MP for Southend West, Anna Firth.

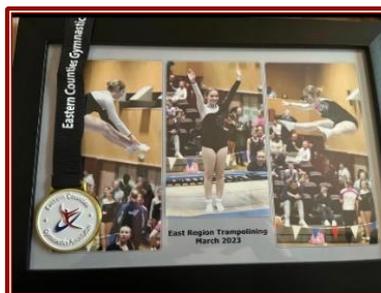
Mr. N. Houchen was kind enough to respond to their requests and the non-school uniform day on 17<sup>th</sup> March saw the donations being split between three charities- Comic Relief, Trust Links and Gold Geese.

Anna Firth MP will be visiting the Academy on 20<sup>th</sup> April.



## EASTERN REGION CHAMPION

Congratulations to Hannah L. (10B) who won the Gold Medal for her age group (15yrs+) at the Eastern Region Championships in Colchester. The Eastern region covers Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.



## EASTERN ATHLETIC SUCCESS

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March, Amy P. (8B), Jess W. (9W) and Heidi W. (7E) represented Southend at the Essex and Eastern Athletics Competition. The pupils completed in the following events:

Amy - Long Jump, 60m Hurdles and High Jump

Jess - 800m

Heidi - 60m Sprint

All three experienced great success in their events. Amy finished 1<sup>st</sup> place in the High Jump with 1.55m, as well as achieving a personal best in all three events. In the 60m sprint, Heidi also achieved a personal best with a time of 8.67 seconds - this placed her joint 31<sup>st</sup> in the country! Lastly, Jess ran 800m in 2:21.19s which was a new personal best and achieved 1<sup>st</sup> place! We are so proud of the girls' achievements. Well done!



# Pupil Success

## YEAR 9 AND U16 SOUTHEND BOROUGH NETBALL TOURNAMENTS 2023

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, the Year 9 and U16 squads travelled to Westcliff High School for Girls (WHSG) to compete in the Annual Southend Netball Tournament. They were looking forward to competing against the best players in the region; playing only 6 minutes one way, anything can happen!

The Year 9s started well with wins against St. Bernard's, Chase High and WHSG. They then came up against some very tough opposition. They battled hard and never gave up, but unfortunately did not have enough to outscore their opponents. Sophie M. (9A) consistently made great interceptions and played a key role in all the matches and was awarded our Year 9 Player of the Tournament.

The U16s demonstrated some fantastic skills, passing the ball swiftly down the court and into their shooters. The defenders made some key interceptions and made their opponents work hard for a shot at goal. They finished the tournament with a 4-3 victory over SHSG A (the tournament winners), having won against SHSG B 4 -1 earlier in the tournament. Megan V. (10E) worked tirelessly up and down the court showing some great dodging skills and accurate passing and was awarded our U16 Player of the Tournament.



### U16 Squad:

Olivia F. (11A), Jessica L (11E), Katie S. (10E), Tiana W. (10R), Erin F. (10E), Sophia L. (10S), Gabrielle H. (10K), Hettie S. (10R), Megan V. (10E)



### Year 9 Squad:

Freya M. (9A), Jessica W. (9W), Zarah F. (9B), Desire K. (9S), Nancy M. (9K), Sophie Mc. (9A), Sienna C. (9B), Poppy B. (9W)

## BALLET PERFORMANCE



Good luck to Felicity W. (7B) who is performing at The Peacock Theatre during the Easter break.

Felicity is a snowflake and Mazurka dancer in the ballet.

## BOROUGH SWIMMING GALA



On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, the PE Department took 41 pupils to represent the Academy at the annual Borough Swimming Gala at Garons Park. Across the afternoon, pupils showcased many impressive individual and team performances. The first race of the day allowed Leo W. (10K), Liam R. (10S), Luke C. (10R), Lois M. (11W), Madi Y. (11W) and Megan V. (10E) to demonstrate their talent as they achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Co-Ed Relay. With little rest, Leo W. (10K) and Lois M. (11W) then competed in the Girls' and Boys' Open Butterfly. Incredibly, Leo finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place and Lois achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

In the girls' individual races, 2<sup>nd</sup> place was achieved by Shanie J. (8R) in the Year 8 Breaststroke, Freya M. (9A) in the Year 9 Backstroke and Nancy A. (7R) in the Year 7 Backstroke. 3<sup>rd</sup> place was achieved by Bo-Elise Q. (7B) in the Year 7 Breaststroke, Megan V. (10E) in the Year 10/11 Backstroke and Mia B. (9R) in the Year 9 Freestyle.

In the boys' individual races, 2<sup>nd</sup> place was achieved by Seb H. (7S) in the Year 7 Breaststroke, Alfie M. (9K) in the Year 9 Backstroke, Finley R. (8A) in the Year 8 Backstroke and Leo W. (10K) in the Year 10/11 Freestyle. Harry H. (8A) finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Year 8 Breaststroke, as did Thomas C. (9W) and Alfie W. (8S) in the Year 8 and 9 Freestyle races.

Notable team performances included the Girls' Squadron Team finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and the Boys' Squadron Team finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Further, both the Year 8 Boys' Medley Team and Year 10/11 Girls' Freestyle Team fought hard to achieve an impressive 2<sup>nd</sup> place in their respective relays.

The afternoon saw a fantastic display of talent and we couldn't be prouder of our pupils. Overall, the Girls' Team finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place (for the first time ever!) and the Boys' Team finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. A great achievement by all. We want to take this opportunity to thank Mr. and Mrs. Haskins who kindly organised and donated personalised Academy swim hats for our pupils to wear on the day - they looked great!

# Pupil Success

## SPORTS LEADERS



During this half-term the Sports Leaders have had the opportunity to deliver basketball sessions to Year 5 pupils from Eastwood Primary School. They have demonstrated brilliant skills during the sessions, delivering creative and fun activities for the pupils. Even though some of the Sports Leaders are naturally quiet, they spoke clearly and confidently when giving instructions. Moreover, they had a great manner with the pupils, motivating and encouraging them enthusiastically.

Feedback from Eastwood Primary School has been fantastic; their staff were very complimentary of the Sports Leaders and the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and couldn't wait to come back for more!



On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 12 of the Sports Leaders were selected to assist with the running of the Southend Secondary Panathlon Challenge. This was held at the Olympic Aquatic Centre in Stratford, which is an amazing facility and we had the added bonus of watching Andrea Spendolini Sirieix (World Junior Diving Champion) practice her dives.

The Sports Leaders were given various roles to assist in the smooth running of the event including time keeping; scoring; organising equipment; assisting competitors in the water; and handing out medals.



Freya M. (9A), Jessica W. (9), Rio P. (9W), Ryan W. (9K), Max M. (9A), Poppy B. (9W),

Oliver C. (9R), Adam J. (9E), Jensen J. (9B), Maddie C. (9W), Evie N. (9A), Sienna C. (9B)

## ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP PROJECT



On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February, the Academy hosted a charity event to raise money and awareness of the Essex Deaf Children Society.

This event was taken from concept to completion by four Year 10 pupils - Maryse F. (10K), Caitlyn D. (10B), Maliyah W. (10S) and Lucia T.

(10W) - within just 4 weeks! Quite an incredible achievement.

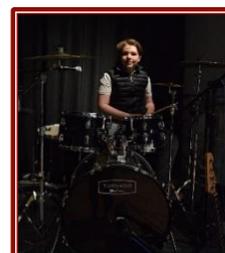
This event sprung from their Active Citizenship project around the education, awareness and provision for the deaf community, and grew from there. The evening involved several pupils performing dance and music acts as well as Maryse herself demonstrating her signing prowess in both a solo act and with the staff band.



The pupils' performances were brilliant and demonstrated real skill. A big thank you goes to Stuart H. (11A), Maryse F. (10K), Rebecca J. (10A), Hannah M. (10W), Leo W. (10K), Joy M. (10K), Tony L. (10A), Gabrielle H. (10K) and Tatiana-Vee B. (10A), William E. (9W), Oliver D. (8B), Bray B. (8K), Ned J. (8R), and Bradley E. (8B) and Ash E. (7K). Numerous staff members were also involved, from the staff band, who ended the show with a bang, to those who kindly helped to organise and oversee the event.



Amongst the audience of over 100 people were ambassadors for the charity, many staff, family, and pupils all of whom helped to build a brilliant atmosphere and raise £608 for the Essex Deaf Children Society. The girls and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support.



# Pupil Success

## ESU SEMI-FINALS

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March, the Academy's English Speaking Union (ESU) Team travelled to Chelmsford County High School for Girls to participate in the semi-final of the ESU 2023 competition, accompanied by a mini-bus of supporters from the Academy.

Our team were facing impressive opponents – we were the only non-selective school at this stage of events. To add to the tension, we were selected for the last and penultimate rounds that evening, meaning the girls had to wait anxiously before taking part.

But once it was their turn, there was no stopping them. Adya S. (11E) delivered an incredibly mature and near-perfect speech on 'people's over-reliance on technology' – Adya had done her research and when the questioner stepped in to interrogate her, Adya simply took this as an opportunity to extend her vast knowledge of the subject even further! The judges later commented that they had found it difficult to recommend any improvements!

Then Amal U. (11S) took the role as Chairperson – nobody that evening had presented such a warm, welcoming introduction as Amal. Even better, Amal didn't need any assistance managing the timings of the event, she had everything down to the last second!

Maame A. (11B) was the Questioner; the judges later remarked that she had the best presence on stage, ensuring that she included the audience in all of the questioning, showing genuine interest in the Speaker's subject.

And Aila C. (11B) was our reserve, ready to jump in at a second's notice, after attending every practice session, diligently and conscientiously.



As you may have guessed, the team won! They are now preparing for the National Finals of the ESU Speaking and Listening Competition in Cambridge on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April.

There are 13 teams in the competition with 800 schools participating in round one!

Cambridge had better get ready for the arrival of The Eastwood Academy ESU Team!

## GOLD BLUE PETER BADGE



Congratulations to Hope E. (10E) who has received Blue Peter's highest award, the Gold Badge! A Gold Blue Peter Badge is awarded to recognise and celebrate extraordinary achievements. Hope has been recognised for her dedication and efforts towards raising funds for two charities - Gold Geese and Rays of Sunshine.

Impressively, Hope has achieved a further 8 badges from Blue Peter. These include her Silver Badge for organising a Bake Sale at the Academy which raised an incredible £450, and her Sports Badge for learning to ride her bike at 11 years old. Hope is globally dyspraxic meaning she finds coordination tasks challenging; however, with great determination, persistence and hard work, Hope mastered the skill of bike riding - an incredible achievement! Well done Hope, we are so proud of you!

## PODCAST

The Podcast Team have been busy this half-term putting together Episode 9.

Rosie W. (8A), Ruby H. (8A), Amaya W. (8B), Lewis C. (10S) and Ellie T. (11R) have worked



tirelessly to report on the various events that have been held over the last few weeks, from Cultural Day to the Easter Music Concert.

The team have also been busy interviewing the pupils who organised and ran a very successful charity concert as part of their Active Citizenship Project and those who took part in the 'Frantic Assembly' workshop.

The team are busy planning interviews and reports for Episode 10. They have big ideas for the milestone episode and all future episodes, with bigger and better interviews with some very special guests!

Click here for the [Eastwood Podcast](#)

# Pupil Success

## FRENCH 10-MERIT AWARD



Well done to the following pupils who have all achieved their 10-merit award in French. This is a fantastic achievement - congratulations!

Polly D. (7A); Amy W. (7A); Alba N. (7B); Sharad P. (7B) Millie B. (7E); Hollie W. (7E); Hannah M. (7K); Brody S. (7R); Freddie B. (7S); Evelyn F. (7S); Marshall H. (7W); Harrison L. (7W); and Seyoneesh M. (7W)

## FRENCH 20-MERIT AWARD



“Congratulations to Alfie M. (7E) and Vedanth. A (8S) for achieving their 20-merit award in French. This is a fantastic achievement, which shows commitment and dedication to their studies. Well done to you both!”

## U13 GIRLS' FOOTBALL TEAM



Congratulations to the U13 Girls' Football Team who are now through to the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the National Cup.

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, the girls battled against a strong Appleton side. After going down 2-0 in the second half, the team persevered and amazingly scored three goals in the last 15 minutes of the game to win 3-2. Every single player demonstrated great resilience to win the game. Good luck in the next round!

Team: Sofia S. (8A), Alice B. (8A), Daisy M.C. (8B), Olivia T. (8E), Isla F. (8E), Millie M. (8R), Eadie L. (7A), Amy W. (7A), Heidi W. (7E), Cameo H. (7E), Jess C. (7W)

Goal scorers- Millie M. x2 (8R) and Sofia S. (8A)

## ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP



The Year 10 citizenship classes have been working really hard on their Active Citizenship Projects, which aim to make a difference to an aspect of society of their choice. Esme S. (10K), Summer B. (10B), Kulsuma S. (10S) and Caecy L. (10A) decided that they wanted to tackle the issue of child poverty. They visited form groups, delivered lessons to teach pupils and also displayed posters around the Academy. Their main goal was to collect toys to donate to The Toy Project, a charity that recycles unwanted toys and sends them to schools and nurseries; hospitals and hospices; bereavement centres; community centres; migrant, refugee and women's refuge centres; prisons and children and families of prisoners; homeless families; and families who are struggling financially.

The project was hugely successful and the pupils were able to donate a fantastic range of toys and books to the charity. A big thank you to all the pupils who made donations, in particular Mr. B. Salmon's form, 7S, who collected a box full of toys, Katy R. (9B) for her incredibly generous offerings, Molly R. (7B) and Liam B. (8S).

## CHARITY HAIR CUT



Well done to Marshall H. (7W) who very kindly cut his hair to donate it to The Little Princess Trust.



## KARATE SUCCESS

Congratulations to Rio P. (9W) who competed at The Legends Open Shotokan Karate Championships on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March. He achieved Silver in Individual Kata and Gold in Team Kata. Unfortunately, he didn't get very far in his Kumite, due to receiving a broken nose during the contest.



## 'KEEPY UPPY CHALLENGE'



A huge congratulations to Joseph B. (8W) for receiving his medal and certificate for the 'Keepy Uppy Challenge'.

Joseph managed to raise an incredible £225 which brings his total to over a £1000 over the last three years.

# Events

## CULTURAL DAY



On 8<sup>th</sup> February the Academy hosted its first 'Cultural Day'. The entire day was organised by a group of pupils who set up the Diversity Committee in September, hoping to find ways to celebrate all our different

cultures at the Academy. The event was a non-uniform day with the opportunity to wear cultural dress and all funds raised were for HANDS (Health And Nutrition Development Society) an NGO whose mission is "to provide basic health services, primary education, income generation opportunities, gender equality, and development of institutions to empower the underprivileged communities". In particular, our funds this year were going to allow them to provide shelter for those affected by the floods in Pakistan.



Each year group had their own set of activities for the day, planned by the pupils in the committee.

Activities ranged from learning traditional Indian dances; 'Stepping' which was delivered by three pupils in Year 13 at WHSG; Karate lessons delivered by a team at Westwood Karate; creating music from different cultures; watching culturally significant films; completing quizzes on their representation of culture; playing board games and team games; and art and literature sessions.



At break, one of the highlights was the sale of food. There was a huge amount prepared by parents and pupils themselves. We had samosas, Ghanaian Donuts, Romanian chocolates, Irish soda bread and much more. As you can see from the photos, the day was a huge success and enjoyed by all. It was an opportunity for pupils to come together, experience something new and different, while having fun in the process.



In total, the day raised £846 which provides more than one shelter for a family in Pakistan.

A big thank you to all the parents, pupils and staff who contributed to the huge success that was our first, and not last, Cultural Day. A special thanks also to our Diversity Committee: Aaron B. (11K), Neve H. (11S), Zaha R. (8B), Ashlee T. (11B), Ashton T. (10B), Amal U. (11S), Natasha Z. (11B), Aiman Z. (10A), Anu Sree U. (10B), Rebecca J. (10A), Gagan Deep K. (10K) Nana M. (10K), Alana S. (8B), Maame A. (11P).



## Events

### LITERACY EVENING



The Year 7 Literacy Evening is always a joy to attend, and this year was no exception. On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, parents,

teachers and pupils all enjoyed a wonderful evening of advice, information, surprises and prizes.

There was a palpable positive synergy in the Main Hall with almost a hundred parents and children gathered together. Parents were enthused and engaged, and thoroughly enjoyed their creative writing task, which was rewarded with Easter eggs (for them) and a Young Adult fiction book for their child.

The pupils in attendance were proud to impart their newfound knowledge of language features, sentence structures and sophisticated vocabulary.

At the end of the evening, we all agreed that this year's event was the biggest and best so far. We look forward to maintaining this high standard for years to come.

### YEAR 7 LIBRARY TRIP



On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 7x3 were the first class to partake in the Kent Elms Library trip – sessions will be taking place for the whole of Year 7 across the remainder of the year. It was an incredibly enjoyable session of escapism into the world of books.

Pupils were given a talk about the library services, provided with their own library card, if they didn't have one already, and were given the opportunity to take books home.

The trip allowed pupils to clearly see the benefits and enjoyment of reading, in addition to all the ways they could use the free services offered by the library. During the trip, and on the way back to school, it was wonderful to see the whole class chattering with each other in excitement about the books they had taken out and saying they couldn't wait to explore their own local library.



### FRANTIC ASSEMBLY



On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February, we were once again fortunate enough to welcome renowned theatre company Frantic Assembly, the creative body behind many professional productions,

including *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* in the West End. In addition to providing the Year 10s with professional devising strategies ahead of their GCSE devising exam this year, we were also able to invite hard-

working Year 8 Drama pupils who are considering studying Drama at GCSE level.

Across the day, over 70 pupils were able to benefit from



Frantic Assembly's expertise, learning collaborative and physical skills, in addition to how to create work within a professional theatre company setting.

Lewis C. (10S) said, "I thoroughly enjoyed the session. Not only did it enhance my skills, but it opened up new communication channels with my peers and helped them to come out of their shells. I really enjoyed when it came to partner work because we learned different ways we can use the space around us. Overall, I really enjoyed it and think that it is vital so we can enhance our learning to the best of our abilities."

In Year 8, Amaya W. (8B) said, "I really enjoyed it. Learning how to do lifts and work effectively together were definite highlights." whilst Rosie W. (8A) said "It was very fun. I particularly enjoyed learning about lifts and how to perform them safely."



# Events

## SPRING CONCERT



On the evening of Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, a capacity audience were treated to a jam-packed evening of live musical entertainment. The concert featured items from all of the school ensembles: Choir; Chamber Choir; Jazz Band; Percussion Ensemble; and Orchestra.

Soloists and smaller items were in abundance as pupils were keen to have their moment on the stage and showcase the plentiful musical talent at the Academy. From rap to jazz, classical singing to musical theatre, there was something for everyone.

This was the first concert to showcase the newly formed 'Junior Band' directed by Mr. W. Piercy. What a tremendous debut performance! Other highlights included some truly spectacular vocal soloists, the Percussion Ensemble dressed as Marvel superheroes (with Mr. S. Harrison wearing his special Superman cape!), a captivating electric violin solo and the beautiful vocal harmonies of the Choir and Chamber Choir. The quality of musicianship and the maturity of performances made for some truly spell binding moments.



## MUSIC ENRICHMENT

If you don't already attend one of the Music Department's many enrichment activities, why not come along and have a go; there really is something for everyone!

Day/Time	Activity	Director
Monday Lunchtime	Junior Band	Mr. Piercy
Monday 3.15pm – 4.15pm	Choir	Mrs. Stanley
Monday 3.15pm – 4.00pm	Music Theory Tuition	Mr. Harrison
Monday 4.15pm – 4.45pm	Chamber Choir	Mrs. Stanley
Wednesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm	Jazz Band	Mr. Harrison
Thursday 3.15pm – 4.15pm	Percussion Ensemble	Mr. Harrison
Friday Lunchtime	The Academy Podcast	Mr. Harrison
Friday 3.15pm – 4.15pm	Orchestra	Mrs. Stanley

## CHEMISTRY COURT HEARING

The Main Hall was recently transformed into a court of law, where pupils in the 7x band went head-to-head as lawyers, arguing their cases about the characters in *Chemistry* by Graham Swift.



Each legal team used their skills in literary analysis, spoken language and rebuttal to present their airtight theories to the Judge and Jury. The winning duo – Sharad P. (7B) and Alex S. (7B) – were exceptional in their use of skills that ultimately led to the conviction of their suspects. Additionally, Freddie S. (7E), Evelyn F. (7S), Ryan N. (7E) and, again, Sharad P. (7B)

were voted the most convincing individuals by their English teachers – demonstrating excellent confidence, resilience and the embodiment of true lawyers.



# Extra-Curricular

## HISTORY BELGIUM TRIP



On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 40 Year 9 pupils, Miss. G. Cassidy, Miss. V. Lang, Mr. W. Piercy and Mr. P. Barrett met for 'Battlefields Tour'.

We picked up Frank, our usual guide, en route, and, for the first time, headed to the port to catch the ferry. After various passport checks, scans and stamps we boarded, and pupils had time to peruse the duty free, eat breakfast, lose a phone, lose a bag of drinks, and then locate both before departing. As always, Frank was incredible. His knowledge of all things WWI knows no bounds and his delivery is so engaging.



Our first stop was the Bayernwald Trenches. Pupils had time to explore the trench systems and bunkers before Frank gathered them to discuss the outbreak of WWI and the daily life of a soldier. Pupils' engagement and participation was excellent and Frank was really impressed with both their knowledge and confidence.

Next stop was the Hooge Crater Museum. Pupils were shown a soldier's uniform, modelled by Jack S. (9E), and Frank discussed the typical wounds that soldiers would experience fighting on the Western Front. There was also an opportunity for other pupils to try on the uniform and handle (deactivated) weapons.

Our final stop was the Railway Dugouts Burial Ground. This was pupils' first look at a WWI cemetery. Frank took the pupils through the evacuation route that an



injured soldier would have typically followed and Kiera B. (9K) laid a wreath as we held a minute's silence. As usual, Frank really 'hit home' with "and now we're going to do something these men

couldn't....go home".



It was certainly a tiring day, but one I think the pupils will remember for a long time.

## LANGUAGE CLUB



This half-term our Language Club presenters were Angelina B. (8K) – Malayalam Robbie-Jay N. (9E) – French; Mr. K. Danson - Portuguese from Brazil; and Lara S. (7A) and Omar M. (7B) – Ramadan.



The Language Club commenced the term with greetings in Malayalam (Angelina B. 7K) and a look at the beauty and culture of Kerala. We practised a French conversation at an imaginary Eurostar terminal and learnt all about the Paris Métro, a

symbol of this famous City (Robbie-Jay N. 9E). We also explored the various 29 Francophone countries where French is officially spoken. Mr. K. Danson entertained us with delightful and amusing phrases in Portuguese



from Brazil and Lara S. (7A) and Omar M. (7B) introduced us to their first day of Ramadan. We concluded the term exchanging Easter greetings:

Joyeuses Pâques! Frohe Ostern! Felices Pascuas!

Buona Pasqua! Счастливого Пасхи!

If you would like to get involved and share your knowledge of a language and culture, please speak to our Language Ambassadors, Elise N. (8E) and Gracie-Rose B. (8K) or come along to MFLI on a Thursday lunchtime.



# Celebrating Success

Congratulations to all the pupils who were presented with certificates in the end of term House assemblies.

## ASHDOWN



## BOWLAND



## ELVEDEN



## KIELDER



## RICHMOND



## SHERWOOD



## WHINFELL



## NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 6<sup>TH</sup> – 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

National Careers Week is a chance to singularly focus on careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) to help pupils understand, realise and fulfil their career aspirations.

During the week, all pupils attended an assembly to introduce National Careers Week. In addition, during PDE time, pupils in Year 8-11 undertook work on self-reflection and employability skills and drew up action plans detailing what work and/or activities they needed to develop to help prepare them to meet their career ambitions.

